

CHERI BUSTOS
17TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

SENIOR WHIP

CO-CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC STEERING
AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

February 25, 2019

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS
AND TRANSIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS,
PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM
COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

LIVESTOCK AND FOREIGN
AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE

Office of the Associate Director for Mitigation
500 C Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Eric Letvin:

I am writing to urge prompt consideration of Freeport Illinois' application for the Pre-Disaster Hazardous Mitigation Grant. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program provides resources to assist local communities in their efforts to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program, as authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5133).

Freeport is one of the prime candidates for this grant with over 168 homes and 26 businesses currently residing in a FEMA designated floodway. The majority of the residents are disadvantaged and low-income minority residents who have little or no options but to live in this area. In just the last 10 years alone Freeport has had 5 major flooding events occurring in the floodway with three of these events occurring within the last two years.

This grant gives those residents an opportunity to seek new homes through the purchasing of their current residents along with the additional \$31,000 provided to the grant. Multiple agencies to include the City, non-profits, the religious community and community leaders came together to work to put this grant together. For the first time in the community's history 155 properties were identified for purchase with 98 residents volunteering to participate in this program.

If Freeport would receive this grant this would be a major move to relieve the pain and suffering of these residents and allow them to seek better living arrangements as well as improving their lives in the community.

Again, I urge full and fair consideration for Freeport's application for the Pre-Disaster Hazardous Mitigation Grant. Thank you and I look forward to your favorable review.

Sincerely,



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress